

Nomenclatural note

The authorship and dates of Pieter Cramer's *De Uitlandsche Kapellen*: a request for comments from lepidopterists

J.E. Chainey

Department of Entomology, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K.

In 1958 (Opinion 516), the Commission approved a set of dates and authorship for *De Uitlandsche Kapellen* by Pieter Cramer (this work was completed by Caspar Stoll after Cramer's death). However, several facts have come to light that might have influenced the Commission's ruling had they been noted at the time. In addition, authors are not always following the Opinion, particularly with regard to the authorship of this work.

(1) The main purpose of Opinion 516 was to assign relative precedence to five publications issued in 1775. Cramer's work was deemed to have been published on December 31st and come last in precedence because there was no evidence of when it had been published, other than the year 1775. However, a letter (held in The Natural History Museum, London) from the entomologist Dru Drury (1725–1803) to the publisher Sepp dated 27 November 1775 states that 'Cramer's work is badly coloured', indicating that at least the first part was then available. This date would give Cramer (1775) precedence over Denis & Schiffermüller (1775), which Opinion 516 stated as having been published on 8 December.

(2) The publication dates given in Opinion 516 are partly based on the assertion that Cramer died in 1780. In particular, the publication date of volume 3, part 22, was set at 1780 (instead of 1779 as given on the original wrappers of a copy held in the library of The Natural History Museum, London), because a footnote by Stoll on p. 107 refers to the death of Cramer. However, Cramer died in September 1776, as noted by Stoll (1780) and Smit, Sanders & van der Veer (1986).

(3) Dos Passos (1958) states that the dates and spellings of the specific names in *De Uitlandsche Kapellen* should be taken from the indexes, since these are the only part of the work that is consistently binominal. Subsequent authors have ignored the dates suggested by Dos Passos and, in any case, the dates he cites for the publication of the indexes do not agree with the above-mentioned copy with its original wrappers. Based on these wrappers, the correct dates for the indexes for each volume are 1776 (vol. 1), 1777 (vol. 2), 1780 (vol. 3) and 1782 (vol. 4). However, some authors have accepted the spellings of names as given in the indexes for the reason cited by Dos Passos.

(4) Acceptance of the indexes as the valid source of the names in *De Uitlandsche Kapellen* would also affect authorship. The whole of volume 4 would be attributable to Stoll, and almost certainly also volume 3. In an announcement of his forthcoming work on Cicadas, Stoll (1780) discusses progress with *De Uitlandsche Kapellen* and states: 'mais le nombre des Planches étant porté à présent à 360, don't 264 [i.e. up to volume 3, part 22] ont déjà vu le jour'. Since the published arrangement and sequence of the figures differ from the original plates, it seems unlikely that Cramer's plans would have been sufficiently advanced for him to have prepared the index to volume 3.

Although there are continuing inconsistencies in the citation of this work, it is considered that the stability of dates and authorship are best served by application of Opinion 516, and this is here recommended as the best course of action. It is also recommended that the spellings of Cramer's names follow the indexes, since these are conformed to by current usage (and in most cases there is no difference between spellings in the indexes and the main text). However, comments are invited from lepidopterists on whether or not a case should be made to take account of any of the above points. Acceptance of any of the first three points could affect the priority of some names, though point 2 applies to relatively few taxa. Points 3 and 4 should be taken together, and acceptance would rule out either points 1 or 2.

References

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